

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 ACDA-19

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R 071752Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0151

SECDEF

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 05668

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IO, UK

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ON INDIAN OCEAN CONSULTATIONS  
AND DIEGO GARCIA

1. MAY 6 FINANCIAL TIMES (FT) AND MAY 7 LONDON TIMES AND  
GUARDIAN CARRY REPORTS(FT ARTICLE CARRIED WASHINGTON BY-LINE)  
THAT U.S. AND UK OFFICIALS ARE HOLDING A  
"FURTHER ROUND OF TALKS ON PRESIDENT NIXON'S PLAN TO EX-  
PAND THE U.S. MILITARY BASE ON DIEGO GARCIA." REPORTS  
NOTE THAT U.S. TEAM HEADED BY WEISS IS IN LONDON FOR TWO  
DAY CONFERENCE ON INDIAN OCEAN. GUARDIAN REPORTS THAT  
DIEGO GARCIA WILL BE ONE OF MAIN ITEMS ON AGENDA.  
GUARDIAN ALSO REPORTS THAT WHILE FCO SOURCES SAY FACI-  
LITIES ON DIEGO GARCIA ARE NOT TO BE DISCUSSED IT "WOULD  
APPEAR ALMOST INCREDIBLE THAT THESE SENIOR OFFICIALS OF  
TWO NATO GOVERNMENTS...WHO WERE WORKING TOGETHER ON THE  
DIEGO GARCIA PROBLEM...ARE NOW TO ASSEMBLE AROUND THE  
TABLE AND YET NOT MENTION DIEGO GARCIA".

2. COMMENT: IN PRELIMINARY SESSION MAY 6 WITH STODDART,  
PM AND JACKSON, FCO ON AGENDA FOR MAY 8-9 INDIAN OCEAN  
TALKS QUESTION OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS LINE REGARDING DIEGO  
AROSE ON BASIS FT ARTICLE CITED ABOVE. IT WAS AGREED  
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THAT IN EVENT OF ANTICIPATED QUERIES WE WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE

THAT TALKS WERE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN CONTEXT OF  
ROUTINE, PERIODIC DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN RESPECTIVE  
OFFICIALS ON POLITICO-MILITARY MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST,  
TO INCLUDE BROAD INDIAN OCEAN AREA. IF SPECIFICALLY  
QUERIED ON DIEGO GARCIA WE WOULD NOTE THAT DIEGO OBVIOUSLY  
WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN TERMS OF ITS ROLE IN INDIAN OCEAN  
FRAMEWORK BUT THAT PURPOSE OF THIS WEEKS TALKS WAS NOT  
INTENDED TO REVIEW U.S. EXPANSION PLANS ON THE ISLAND OR  
HMG REVIEW OF THESE PLANS. SUGGEST WASHINGTON FOLLOW  
PARALLEL PRESS LINE ON FIELDING QUERIES. SOHM

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## Message Attributes

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